



*"The youth of a nation are the trustees of prosperity."
—Disraeli.*



BOYS' AND GIRLS' 4-H CLUB WORK

WHAT CLUB WORK IS:

Boys' and Girls' 4-H Club work is a part of the national agricultural extension system. Through it, rural boys and girls 10 to 20 years of age, in school and out of school, are taught better agricultural and home-economics practices and the finer and more significant things of rural life. It builds men and women.

WHAT CLUB WORK DOES:

- 4-H Club boys and girls are demonstrators—they learn and teach better ways on the farm, in the home, and in the community.
- 4-H Club boys and girls work, earn money, and acquire property.
- 4-H Club boys and girls do the needful, the wholesome, the helpful thing. They become leaders.
- 4-H Club boys and girls play the game fairly.
- 4-H Club boys and girls meet together, work together, play together, cooperate, achieve.

WHAT CLUB WORK DOES—*Continued.*

4-H Club boys and girls build up their bodies and their health through right living; they train their hands to be useful, their minds to think clearly; their hearts are kind.

4-H Club boys and girls have high ideals and standards. They serve.

4-H Club boys and girls are doers.

THE CLUB PROBLEM:

There are about 11,000,000 rural boys and girls 10 to 18 years of age in the United States. There are now enrolled in 4-H Club work about 600,000 rural boys and girls, or about 1 out of each 18. The aim is so to develop the work that every boy or girl who reaches maturity and takes up farm life shall have had the opportunity in youth to take part in 4-H Club work.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT 4-H CLUB WORK:

- (1) Ask a club member or local club leader.
- (2) Ask your county extension agent.
- (3) Write to the extension director of your State agricultural college.
- (4) Write to the Extension Service of the United States Department of Agriculture,
Washington, D. C.

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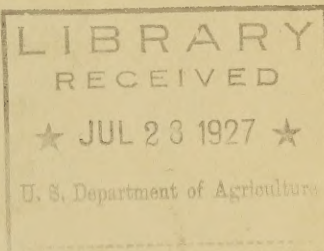
Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics

U. S. Department of Agriculture
and State Agricultural Colleges
Cooperating

Extension Service, Office of
Cooperative Extension Work,
Washington, D. C.

BOYS' AND GIRLS' 4-H CLUB WORK

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Boys' and girls' 4-H club work is a publicly supported and directed educational enterprise of the United States Department of Agriculture, State agricultural colleges and county governments cooperating. It is designed to teach through doing and is so organized as to teach better practices in agriculture and home economics, and the finer things of rural life, while at the same time developing wholesome, industrious, public-spirited boys and girls.

Membership in 4-H clubs is voluntary. One of the essentials of membership is that each boy and girl taking up the work shall learn and demonstrate some better practice in agriculture or home economics under the guidance of a competent leader, keep a record of this work, make a public exhibit, and report on it to the county extension agent.

Members of 4-H clubs are associated in groups of 5 to 50 or more. These clubs are conducted in accordance with parliamentary practices. The club program usually flows from and centers about the work each boy or girl is doing at his or her own home. The program is enriched by demonstrations, exhibits, songs, games, yells, music, and social activities. Tours about the county to study livestock, farm crops, home improvements, and the like, are often made a part of the club activities.

In summer, county, district, State, and sometimes regional camps of about a week's duration are held. Usually once a year from 250 to 2,500 outstanding representatives of the clubs are brought to their State agricultural college for a week's instruction and inspiration. At these camps, matters that make for character, appreciation of nature, pride in rural life and accomplishments are emphasized.

In club work involving poultry, dairying, beef cattle, sheep, hogs, and sometimes various field crops, club members are taught matters of finance, marketing, exhibiting, demonstrating, cooperation, and like matters. They are associated with bankers, breeders, college teachers, merchants, and the public in worth-while enterprises and taught the ethics of business. Through club work, rural cooperation is taught and rural leadership developed.

The club age is 10 to 20 years, with stress placed on the years 12 to 18. The aim is to so develop boys' and girls' club work as to enroll and guide at some time during these ages at least half of the 11,000,000 boys and girls of the rural districts for an average period of at least three years in club work.

(Over)

The emblem of the 4-H club work is the four-leaf clover, with an "h" inscribed on each leaf. It signifies the equal development of the head, the hand, the heart, and the health of each club member. The pledge of each club member is as follows:

I pledge

My head to clearer thinking,
My heart to greater loyalty,
My hands to larger service, and
My health to better living,

for my club, my community, and my country.

The ultimate objectives of 4-H club work are a prosperous, capable, and contented rural people, men and women who find joy and satisfaction in growing crops and animals, the plants of the field and the woods, the wild life of forest and stream, the winds, the rain, and the soil; and the development of a cultured, wholesome life on the farms and in rural communities, with interests extending outside the community into the affairs of State and Government.

Boys' and girls' clubs are usually organized by the county agricultural agents and home demonstration agents, now located in nearly every county in the United States. In some counties there are club agents, giving their whole time to 4-H club work. These are all public officials, usually paid in part from Federal, State, and county funds, and administratively directed by the extension director of the State agricultural college. The work is often carried on in cooperation with local organizations of farmers, particularly the local farm bureau. Headquarters of the county agents are usually at the county seat or leading, centrally located town of the county. These agents are always glad to consider all matters relating to agriculture and rural betterment and will be interested in cooperating with scout officials, farmers' organizations, and all other public agencies and associations in promoting the best things in rural life.